



## WEEK 1 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### CONNECT

When you hear the phrase “small, but significant,” what do you think? Is it a person, place, or thing? Share with your group the first thing that comes to mind.

### CONSIDER

What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

### CHRIST

Read Acts 4:32-37 as a group.

- The word “apostle” is derived from the Greek word *apostellein*, which means *to send off*. Therefore, when we speak of an apostle, we are talking about *one who is sent*. We often think of the original twelve apostles of Christ, but all believers who are walking out their calling are apostles, ones sent by Christ to share the Gospel and to do good works. **Do you feel as though you are *one sent by Christ*? Do your words and actions reflect that? If not, what needs to change in your life to live your life more like an *apostle* of Christ?**
- Verse 32 tells us that “all the believers were one in heart and mind” and “they shared everything they had.” Verses 33-34 tell us that with this unity “God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all, that there were no needy persons among them.” What a picture of a true body of believers living in unity with each other and Christ. **Do you think today we act like a true body of believers? What would our society look like if we did?**

Read Acts 9:26-31 as a group.

- In this story, we see Saul, a man who used to persecute Christians, have a radical conversion and become Paul, writer of much of the New Testament and one of the great heroes of the faith. However, during this time, many did not believe his conversion to Christianity was genuine. Yet one person, Barnabas, made a point to include him, brought him to the apostles and advocated for him. The icebreaker question above asked you to think of something “small, but significant.” This may have seemed like just a small action, but it paid huge dividends. Verse 31 gives us a picture of what those dividends may have looked like. It says the church “enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened” and “it increased in numbers.”

**Would you say you do a good job of including others as Barnabas did, even those who are a bit rough around the edges as Saul was?**

**Read Acts 11:22-26 as a group.**

- This is the first time we see the term “Christians” used to describe those who subscribed to the teachings of Jesus. Verse 26 says, “The disciples were called Christians **first** at Antioch.” Before this, these folks were called followers, or disciples, and some were called apostles. It seems as though all it took for people to start using this all-inclusive term “Christian” was a little encouragement from Barnabas. Verse 23 tells us that Barnabas “encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their heart.” **Who can you encourage today? If you had to pick one person to be intentional about encouraging this week, who would that be? When you do this, you could be an “unsung hero” in someone’s life!**
- In **Acts 15:36-41**, we see that even Paul and Barnabas, who had done so much amazing work together for the Lord, had their disagreements. Yet Scripture teaches us that not all disagreements are bad. Paul and Barnabas parted company and separately did great things for the Lord. **Romans 15:1-6** gives us a great example of how good things can come out of disagreements or even insults that come our way, showing us that sometimes these things give us “endurance.” **Is there a difficult situation in your life that might be something God is allowing in your life to give you “endurance” for even greater things down the road? Take a moment to process that with your group.**

## **CALLING**

- We see in the life of Barnabas, this “unsung hero” of the Bible, four traits that were very strong in him. He was a:
  - Generous Giver (Acts 4:37)
  - Intentional Includer (Acts 9:26-27)
  - Enthusiastic Encourager (Acts 11:22-26)
  - Relationship Restorer (Acts 15:36-41)

It is said that 30 days forms a habit. For the next four weeks, can you take a week to pray for God to develop in you each of these same four traits that Barnabas had? It would look like this:

- Week 1: “God, this week, help me to be a Generous Giver.”
  - Week 2: “God, this week, help me to be an Intentional Includer.”
  - Week 3: “God, this week, help me to be an Enthusiastic Encourager.”
  - Week 4: “God, this week, help me to be a Relationship Restorer.”
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside’s mobile app for Daily Devotions.
  - **Memorize:** *The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.* **Acts 9:31 (NLT)**
  - **Further Study:** For a further understanding of the life of Barnabas, take some time to read these Scriptures and about many of his other positive traits:
    - Set Apart (Acts 13:2)
    - Powerful and Patient Preacher (Acts 14:1-7)
    - Risk Taker (Acts 15:26)
    - Reliable (Acts 11:30)